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TO : Department of State OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS MESSAGE

755.00/6-850

FROM : [illegible] 1042 June 8, 1950

REF :

1950 JUN 13 PM 2 44

SUBJECT : PRESS COMMENT ON BELGIAN ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT OF STATE

EUR INDEX RMW

1 60 For Dept. use only. JUNE 12

ACTION EUR

INFO DCR OLI IE

While the Dutch press continues to caution itself to steer clear of Belgian domestic affairs, it seems unable to heed its own advice. Most newspapers, including part of the Dutch Catholic press, is inclined to warn the Belgian Catholic Party to move carefully and not to overestimate its newly gained victory. For example, the leading Catholic newspaper, DE VOLKSKRANT, states that while the Belgian Catholic Party, like the British Labor Party, can hold office, its satisfaction must be dampened by the fact that the Socialists did relatively better in the elections. It will be impossible to speak of the "triumphant return of Leopold," says the paper, and therefore the Belgian Catholics should establish a moderate program. Catholic HET BINNENHOF fears that a purely Catholic cabinet will give rise to anti-Catholicism in Belgium and will intensify Flemish-Walloon differences, but it calls on its sister party to "shoulder its burdens manfully" and to put the country's interest above partisan considerations. Liberal [illegible] ROTTERDAMSE COURANT states flatly that only the Socialists have reason to be cheerful, since they now have every opportunity to prepare for the "new elections which must be held sooner or later." Right-wing DE TELEGRAAF criticises the "red press" (including by inference the Dutch Socialist press) for its persistent interference in the Leopold issue, and expresses the hope that the elections will mean the end of this problem. However, it believes the results are not of such a nature that all difficulties will have been removed. It concludes by calling on all Belgian parties to "play the game according to the rules."

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For the Ambassador:

William T. Nunley

William T. Nunley
Attaché of Embassy

DCSB FEN MS RMW

JUN 12 1950 AM 11 58 RECORDS BRANCH

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